

**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, August 21,
1793, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson

Albe: Augt. 21. 1793

Dear Sir

On my return from Richmond I was favored with yours of the 14 of July. I shod. have answerd it sooner had I not been prevented by some peculiar engagements. At present I shod. be more full upon some points but that the favor of Mr. Madisons compny. likewise prevents it. Upon one point I think it necessary to say a few words. You suggest that some indiscretions of Mr. Genet have given an advantage to his adversaries they seem disposed to avoid themselves of by an appeal to the people wh. you fear in the heat of parties & the probable preponderance of the opposit interests may injure his country. Of one fact I am well assured that in case of such an appeal, the people of this State in deciding on the merits of the French minister whilst they wod. consider them of the administratn. As inveterate & malignant vices-they wod. consider his as the effect of the intemperate zeal of an honest heart active in the support of the

best of causes, whilst they wod. deem those of his antagonists, as the effect of unsound hearts & wicked heads planning the ruin of that cause.

A variety of considerations incline me to believe that a crisis is rapidly approaching that will produce some great change in our affairs. I consider this gentn. as an important instrument

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in bringing on that crisis. The public mind will not be governed by light or trivial incidents but will take the measures of 4 or 5 years together as the data or rule to decide by and if upon the whole the measures of the admin. Partake more of evil than good, let the incident wh. matures the crisis be what it may, they will condemn it. This is not suggested by a mere matter of surmise. I know the principle to be at work & I am well satisfied it will produce fruit in the course of a short time.

The French historians will record the conduct of this country towards theirs. They will note that of individuals also.

Those who shall take any part which the world & posterity may not approve, be them who they may, will be handed down in their proper colours.

I understand from Mr. Madison that you have already recd. some intimation of the paper enclosed. I have therefore only to request that you will be so kind as forward it to the gentl. to whom it is addressed.

Mr. Randolph & Mr. Jeff. dined with us today. His family are well. I am Dear sir very affectionately yr. frd. & servt. Jas. Monroe

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).